

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 12-15, and 17-18 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claims 1, 12, 15, and 17-18 have been amended and claims 11 and 16 have been cancelled (and their contents transferred to the independent claims). Applicants' representative respectfully requests entry of these amendments since no new matter is added and such amendments are believed to place the application in condition for allowance. A listing of claims and associated status identifiers can be found on pp. 2-7 of the Reply. Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

Applicants' representative thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 11 and 16 would be allowable if recast in independent form. Independent claims 1, 12, 15, and 17-18 have been amended herein to recite limitations deemed allowable by the Examiner. In particular, the Examiner notes that the prior art of record fails to disclose or fairly suggest that determining whether a probing entity is connected to an active network comprises: analyzing network traffic received by a network interface associated with the probing entity; analyzing electrical signals received from hardware associated with the network with which the probing entity desires to interact; and analyzing BPDUs (Bridge Protocol Data Units) received by a network device associated with the network with which the probing entity desires to interact. Independent claims 1, 12, 15, and 17-18 are amended herein to reflect such allowable limitations.

Accordingly, rejections of these claims (and the claims that respectively depend therefrom) under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based upon *Cole et al.* (US 5,854,901) and *Cudak et al.* (US 5,862,452); and under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based upon *Cole et al.*, *Cudak et al.*, and *Matsukawa* (US 6,925,079), are believed to be moot – withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [ALBRP227US].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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